



WESTMINSTER TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

City Council Chambers, 8200 Westminster Blvd.
Tuesday – June 28, 2011 at 6:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Westminster Traffic Commission was called to order by Chairman A. Nguyen on Tuesday, June 28, 2011 at 6:03 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 8200 Westminster Boulevard, Westminster, California.

SALUTE TO FLAG

Commissioner Carey led the members of the audience in the Salute to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Diana Carey, Gilbert Cruz, Andrew Nguyen, Linh Nguyen and Ken Robbins

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Adolfo Ozaeta, Associate Civil Engineer; Corporal Mark Lauderback, Police Department and Veronica Johnson, Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Traffic Commission's regular meeting of May 31, 2011 were approved (5-0).

ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED

The first item to be considered at this evening's meeting was T.C. 84-105, Request to Install All-Way Stop Signs or Two-Way Stop Signs at the Intersection of Ontario Drive and Sabre Lane.

T.C. 84-105 Ontario & Sabre

Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission that staff received a written request from Kim-Quy Vu, 14600 Ontario Drive, to investigate the speeding along Ontario Drive and Sabre Lane and the safety of pedestrian crossing.

Staff performed an engineering study at subject location which included observation of the traffic conditions, accident reports, speed surveys and traffic counts. Attention was directed to Exhibit A to view the locations of traffic signals placed throughout the neighborhood. Staff applied two analysis's following the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) guidelines for the All-Way Stop Sign Installation and the Two-Way Stop Sign Installation. The result of the two studies did not reveal that any of the conditions were met.

STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION

Staff's recommendation was to deny the request for all-way stop signs and two-way stop signs.

Corporal Lauderback explained two methods for targeting and monitoring speed with their speed trailer. One being a Stealth Stat, where an officer will sit in an unmarked car and count the number of vehicles, register their speed and time of day by radar. Secondly, is educating the motorists through digital Speed Boards which reveal the speed of the vehicle passing by so that they can compare that speed to what their speedometer actually reads to see if their collaboration may be off. Traffic officers can be positioned in an area of concern if warranted.

Mr. Ozaeta received five phone calls from residents in favor or some kind of stop control device to control the speed. In addition, the MUTCD identifies that an installation of a stop sign should not be implemented for speed control. An unwarranted stop sign is more likely to be violated with increased noise levels and speeding in between the segments that had been broken up into two.

Commissioner Carey observed the area last Friday afternoon right before the peak of a traffic rush hour and found the traffic volume to be very low. She concurs with Staff's conclusion.

Vice Chairman Robbins agrees with the analysis.

MOTION

Vice Chairman Robbins moved to approve Staff's Recommendation to deny the request of all-way stop signs and two-way stop signs at the intersection of Ontario Drive and Sabre Lane, seconded by Commissioner Cruz.

VOTE

The motion was carried by a 5-0 vote.

**T.C. 70-302
Hazard & Bowling**

The second item to be considered at this evening's meeting was T.C. 70-302, Request for parking restrictions on Hazard Avenue at Bowling Green Street.

Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission that staff received a written request from Mr. Tran to investigate sight visibility concerns at the subject location. His concern is with the safety of vehicles attempting to perform turn maneuvers onto Hazard Avenue from Bowling Green Street.

Mr. Ozaeta directed attention to Exhibit A for examination. Staff surveyed the location and identified the existing traffic conditions. The intersection of Hazard Avenue and Bowling Green Street is uncontrolled along Hazard and stop controlled along Bowling Green Street. The speed

limit on Hazard Avenue is 40 mph and 25 mph on Bowling Green Street. Staff's 5-second corner sight distance analysis identified the need for parking to be eliminated on both sides of the street in order for motorists to have five seconds of reaction time to safely perform a turn maneuver.

Mr. Ozaeta pointed out a particular driveway on the west side of the street for the Commission to justify, reduce or increase the recommended 100 feet of restrictions to 80 feet.

STAFF'S

RECOMMENDATION

Staff's recommendation was for the installation of parking restrictions on the south side of Hazard Avenue for a distance of 88 feet to the east of Bowling Green Street and 100 feet to the west of Bowling Green Street.

Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission that staff received six calls from residents in favor of the restrictions. One concern brought up was the big rigs and pilot cars that park on Hazard Avenue and create a disturbance throughout the night.

Corporal Lauderback informed the Commission that large trucks cannot deviate off of their route and are allowed to park up to two hours according to the Municipal and Vehicle Code. Citations could be written and accrue every two hours if warranted; on the other hand, their engine could be running if hauling a refrigerated trailer.

Mr. Ozaeta added that residents are concerned with the casino buses parking in the area. He informed the public and the Commission that the City is internally working strategically towards a solution.

Commissioner Carey visited the subject location twice and did not find any parked vehicles on Friday. On Sunday, she did not find vehicles parked to the west of Bowling Green Street; although, cars were parked right up to the intersection on the east side making it very difficult to see. The electrical boxes located on the west also disrupt your view. She does not believe that red curb marking would infringe on the businesses as they have ample parking in their lots; however, she is in favor of eliminating 3 parking spaces on Hazard Avenue due to sight distance visibility.

Vice Chairman Robbins is in favor of red curb on Hazard Avenue to alleviate any potential side swiping from motorists traveling eastbound on Hazard making a left turn

onto Lyndon Street. He is in favor of 80 feet of restrictions on the west side and 88 feet on the east side.

Commissioner L. Nguyen is in favor of the installation of restrictions on the east side.

MOTION

Commissioner Cruz moved to approve the installation of 88 feet of parking restrictions to the east of Bowling Green Street and 80 feet to the west of Bowling Green Street, seconded by Vice Chairman Robbins.

VOTE

The motion was carried by a 5-0 vote.

T.C. 11-106

Westminster Blvd

The third item for discussion was T.C. 11-106, Request to rescind parking restrictions at 7301 Westminster Blvd.

Mr. Ozaeta reported that staff received a written request from Charles Ponti to rescind parking restrictions at the subject location to permit the parking for two vehicles. He referred to Exhibit A, an aerial photo, to view the subject location and the new installation of the raised median islands. He provided background on the Orange County Fire Department and gave details on their emergency vehicle routes.

STAFF'S

RECOMMENDATION

Staff's recommendation was to rescind the existing 37 feet of parking restrictions at 7301 Westminster Boulevard.

Hector Herrera, 7301 Westminster Blvd., spoke in favor of rescinding parking restrictions because their customers are in need of parking and if they are unable to find parking they will leave and lose their business.

Charles Ponti, 5091 Berkeley Avenue, spoke in favor of rescinding parking restrictions and is happy to hear staff's recommendation to give back parking to the public. He also mentioned that he spoke with the Fire Department.

Commissioner Carey spoke to Hector and the Battalion Chief. The Chief explained they do not need the marked location for their emergency vehicles; although, they do have large trucks from other stations that park in that section when they have trainings. Their concern is that they do not want the public to park right next to the driveway. They do not need 15 feet but would like for something to remain there, 5 or 10 feet.

Mr. Ozaeta explained that on a driveway approach they could implement five feet of vehicle clearance which would reduce the 37 feet of parking becoming available. Another option would be to rescind the restrictions and reevaluate the area if there is a problem.

MOTION

Vice Chairman Robbins moved to approve staff's recommendation to rescind 37 feet of parking restrictions at 7301 Westminster Boulevard and if the need arises from the Orange County Fire Authority to add five feet of restrictions to bring this item back to the Commission, seconded by Commissioner L. Nguyen.

VOTE

The motion was carried by a 5-0 vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Carey provided updates on the June 16, 2011 West County Connectors Project (WCC) for the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) working on the I-405 freeway. Their concerns are with the bridges at Seal Beach and 7th Street. The bridge on Valley View is on schedule as predicted. The east side is scheduled to be finished in the 4th quarter of this year and the west side will be finished in the 3rd quarter of 2012.

They are keeping the community well informed. The environmental impact report with CalTrans on the widening of the freeway is complete and OCTA will have a stake holders meeting in August and the community meeting will be held in the Community Center on Wednesday, November 16, 2011. She provided handouts for questions and answers.

Commissioner Carey received an email from Sue Wolf who is concerned with the stop sign at Milan Street and Vallecito. Ms. Wolf has observed vehicles running the stop sign and would like to bring that to the attention of the Commission and Police Department.

Mr. Ozaeta elaborated on the city wide construction. The projects were funded through the Redevelopment Agency and because of Governor Brown's attempt to take that money back when he entered office, the Public Works Department mobilized staff and awarded eight projects immediately. Mr. Ozaeta provided updates on all of the projects currently under construction throughout the City.

Commissioner Carey questioned if any of the Redevelopment Agency funds included slurry in the residential areas and Mrs. Johnson explained there are two

projects; Slurry Seal & Overlay, that will be executed in mid July.

Commissioner Carey added that contractors beginning a slurry project in a residential area should provide a more detailed schedule so that the residents can be better informed regarding their parking concerns.

Mr. Ozaeta explained that Sonya Radzuik, Traffic Manager, at the Police Department is notified of projects in residential areas so that they can relax their traffic enforcement during those periods.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Cruz questioned if the Code Enforcement Department is handling the graffiti issues at 206 Hospital Circle and Mrs. Johnson explained a case has been opened. Mr. Ozaeta will invite one of the Code Enforcement Officers at the upcoming Traffic Meeting for further explanation and updates.

**INFORMATION
& REPORTS**

There were no "Information and Reports" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**ORAL
COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no "Oral Communications" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**WRITTEN
COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no "Written Communications" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**ITEMS
COMMISSIONERS
MAY WISH TO
DISCUSS**

There were no "Items Commissioners may wish to discuss" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**ITEMS STAFF MAY
WISH TO DISCUSS**

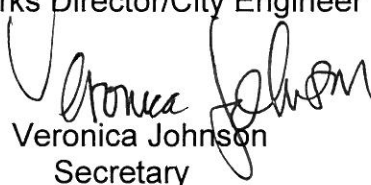
There were no "Items Staff may wish to discuss" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marwan Youssef
Public Works Director/City Engineer


By: Veronica Johnson
Secretary